OUR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - JAMES E. MONROE

I am a transplanted native from the cold, frigid northland. I was born in Leesburg, Indiana April 26, 1918. Lived in Southern Alabama for a couple of years while very small. Fluctuated back and forth between Indiana and Florida until 1936. Have been here in Central Florida since then. The only exception being four years spent in the Army during WW II.

Was married August 14, 1941 to Miss Evelyn Marshall of Whitewater, Wisconsin. We have two children, a daughter - Joyce age 14 and a son John - age 11.

My line of work is at present General Manager of a small, specialty citrus plant. We make bases for soft drinks, special purees for ice cream sherbets and other products along that line.

About ten years ago we purchased our present home here in Eagle Lake. At that time I made the remark that I didn't want any Hibiscus on the property. At that time the only ones we saw in this area were the old single reds. Shortly after that the bug bit me and now I have almost 500 varieties to care for.

I was appointed to the job of Executive Secretary of the AHS at the start of "Pic" Thompson's second term of president. I hope I have done a good job.

BUD DROP: from Jackson Grain Company bulletin.

Control: Make your plants happy about their environment.

How? Here are some of the things that will cause a plant to drop its buds or flowers:

1. Wrong temperature. Plants vary in the weather they require.

2. Wrong water relationship. When moisture conditions are not right for a particular plant, buds drop.

3. Unbalanced fertilizers. Too much nitrogen causes bud drop, while extra potash is needed to produce sturdy branches and colorful flowers. In general, we believe that a 4-6-8, 3-½-¼ fertilizer is the best for a flowering plant. Minor elements, formulated in the proper amounts with the primary plant foods furnish the plant food elements in the ratio in which they are needed by most of our Florida plants.

4. Imporper care. Different plants require specialized care. They differ in the degree of shade or sun required. Mulching is important and some plants will not grow well if they are not well mulched. Of great importance are weed control and cultivation practices. While deep rooted plants need cultivation, a shallow rooted plant can be ruined by this practice.

5. Improper pH. Plants differ in the acidity or alkalinity they require. It is important to test your soil and create the right pH for your various plants.

6. Improper varieties. It is usually the case that the higher you breed up a plant, the more and better care it requires. Pick varieties which are suited to your climate, soil and pocketbook.

7. Poor pruning. Some plants require drastic pruning at the proper time for them to produce their best flowers while others require no pruning. Give your flowering plants the type of pruning they require.